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REMARKS

Claims 1-77 are pending in the present application. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have added new claims 48-77. New claims 57-60 are copied from U.S. Patent Application/Publication No. U.S 2003/0209915 A1 ('915 Application) for the purpose of preserving Applicants' right to provoke an interference between Applicants' application and the '915 application. Furthermore, claims 61-63 are copied from U.S. Patent Application/Publication No. US2003/0222477 A1 ('477 Application) for the purpose of preserving Applicants' right to provoke an interference between Applicants' application and the '477 application. Claims 57-63 correspond to claims in the '915 Application and the '477 Application as follows:

Current Application	'915 Application	'477 Application
57	8	-
58	9	-
59	11	-
60	14	-
61	-	1
62	-	2
63	-	3

By presenting the claims copied from the '915 publication and the '477 publication on the date of submission of this Preliminary Amendment, June 10, 2004, Applicants have complied with 35 U.S.C. §135(b).

Applicants submit that claims 56-60 of this application are fully supported by the original disclosure. In the independent claims, a shock absorber is recited that is directed to a small-diameter tube portion, a larger-diameter tube portion and a step portion, wherein a fractional member is mounted in an interior of the larger-diameter to portion. As clearly shown in Applicants' Figs. 23 and 24, and management tube 78 comprises a small-diameter tube section 77, a large-diameter tube section 78 and an intermediate tube section 79, with the

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energy management tube 78 having a crushable insert 75 in the large diameter tube section 79.

Applicants further submit that claims 61-63 of this application are fully supported by the original disclosure. In the independent claims, a shock absorber is recited that includes a small-diameter tube portion, a larger-diameter tube portion and a step portion that joins the small-diameter tube portion and the larger-diameter tube portion, wherein both a folded-back portion of the smaller-diameter tube portion and a folded-back portion of the larger-diameter tube portion have a circular arc-shaped section with an arc angle more than 90 degrees and a step portion that is formed to have an S-shaped section. As clearly shown in Fig. 12, Applicants' application discloses an energy management tube with both a folded-back portion of the smaller-diameter tube portion and a folded-back portion of the larger-diameter tube portion joined to each other through a step portion, which has a circular arc-shaped section with an arc angle more than 90 degrees. Applicants' can supplement this explanation for each of the pending claims if it should become necessary. However, Applicants submit that the support is clearly contained in the application text.

The Examiner may call the undersigned at the number below if there is any questions concerning this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

6/10/04

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